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NOTE

Variation in Chaetotaxy in *Cynomyopsis cadaverina* (Robineau-Desvoidy)
(Diptera: Calliphoridae)

Variation in chaetotaxy of muscoid flies has received considerable attention in the past. Hough (1899. *Zool. Bul.* 2: 283–290) reported that 18% of the *Cynomyopsis cadaverina* (Robineau-Desvoidy) he examined showed some sort of chaetotaxal variation. Most of the variant specimens he examined showed unilateral presence or absence of a macrochaeta with only a very few exhibiting bilateral variation. Hall (1948. *Thomas Say Found.* Vol. 4, 477 pp.) commented that in a number of reared blow fly specimens obtained from several sources in the United States, reduction and duplication of bristles occurred in the dorsocentral or acrostichal series in less than 5% of the individuals. James (1967. *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am.* 60: 706) discussed variation in chaetotaxy in another blow fly, *Phaenicia sericata* (Meigen). He described a series of 22 individuals with a decreased number of postacrostichal bristles. Hall and Townsend (1977. *Va. Polytech. Inst. State Univ. Res. Div. Bull.* 123, 48 pp.) also reported a number of blow flies with a reduced number of postacrostichals most often occurring unilaterally.

In a study of Mississippi blow flies, several specimens of *C. cadaverina* were found with variant chaetotaxy. A total of five out of 78 carefully examined specimens were found to vary in the number of postacrostichal bristles from the normal two pairs. Four specimens were found with only one pair of postacrostichals and one had three pairs. Often, large individuals of a species have more strongly developed bristles than do small individuals of the same species. Likewise, weak bristles tend to become hairlike and may be overlooked unless searched for carefully. However, in this study the variant specimens are all essentially normal sized.

Available blow fly keys separate *C. cadaverina* from other related Calliphorinae according to the presence of two postacrostichal bristles. One or three postacrostichals separate the flies into two other genera, *Cynomya* and *Cyanus*, respectively. In light of this, taxonomists working with this group should be aware of this type of variation. When doubt exists, the male genitalia should be exposed and compared with the drawings provided by Hall (1948).

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